

Appl. No.: 10/582,738
Amdt. dated October 22, 2009
Reply to Office Action of July 23, 2009

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In view of the amendments to the pending claims and the following remarks, reexamination and reconsideration of this application, withdrawal of the rejections, and formal notification of the allowability of all claims as presented are earnestly solicited. As detailed in the Office Action mailed July 23, 2009, Claims 1-17 are pending, wherein Claims 1-17 have been rejected. Claims 1, 9, 13, and 15 were also indicated as being objected to. In response to the Office Action, Claims 1, 2, 9-11, 13-15, and 17 have been amended to clarify the subject matter being claimed. The amendments to Claims 1, 2, 9-11, 13-15, and 17 find support throughout the Specification and the Drawings, and no new matter has been added. It is believed that the claims now define patentable subject matter and notice to such effect is requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

Objections to the Drawings

The drawings were indicated in the Office Action Summary as being objected to. However, no detail with respect to this objection was provided in the Detailed Action. As such, the Applicants request that sufficient detail of the objection be provided such that the drawings can be appropriately addressed. Otherwise, the Applicants request withdrawal of this objection.

Claim Objections

Claims 1, 9, 13, and 15 were objected to in the Office Action for various informalities. In response, Claims 1, 9, 13, and 15 have been amended as suggested in the Office Action, and as otherwise detailed herein, to address these informalities. As such, the Applicants request withdrawal of these objections.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §112

Claims 1-17 were rejected as being indefinite with respect to the terms “the inner axis” and “the outer axis” forming an axis pair. In response, the Applicants have amended Claims 1, 9, 13, and 15 to recite that the axis pair includes an outer element coaxially arranged with and configured to surround an inner element, with the inner and outer elements being configured to

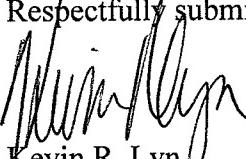
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share a common axis. Claims 1, 2, 9-11, 13-15, and 17 were further amended to recite an “inner element” instead of an “inner axis,” and to recite an “outer element” instead of an “outer axis,” consistently with this definition of an axis pair. As such, the Applicants submit that the amended and clarified claims now particularly point out and distinctly claim the pertinent subject matter. The Applicants thus respectfully request withdrawal of these rejections.

Conclusion

In conclusion, for the reasons set forth above, the Applicants submit that all claims now pending are in condition for immediate allowance. Accordingly, notice to such effect is respectfully requested at the Examiner’s earliest opportunity.

It is not believed that extensions of time or fees for net addition of claims are required, beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, in the event that additional extensions of time are necessary to allow consideration of this paper, such extensions are hereby petitioned under 37 CFR §1.136(a), and any fee required therefore (including fees for net addition of claims) is hereby authorized to be charged to Deposit Account No. 16-0605.

Respectfully submitted,

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